

Memorandum



Date: October 2, 2007

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Barnes
County Manager

Subject: Resolution Ratifying FY2007 Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grant Application

Agenda Item No. 18(A)(2)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board ratify the attached resolution authorizing the County Manager's action in applying for, receiving, and expending grant funds in the amount of \$200,000 from the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance available under the FY2007 Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grant Program to support the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD). The grant covers a period from approximately October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

Scope

The grant will provide countywide services.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

This grant will provide \$200,000 in federal funds to implement the proposed project. The grant does not require matching funds. The funding source is the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Track Record/Monitor

The grant will be monitored by the Miami-Dade Police Department.

Background

The deadline for this grant application was June 22, 2007. This funding will enhance officer safety in the MDPD's response to tactical situations, explosives calls, weapons of mass destruction, and potential terrorist incidents. Numerous recent incidents have highlighted the vulnerability of our schools, court houses and malls and the need for law enforcement to respond to these incidents in a rapid and efficient manner in order to minimize the loss of life to civilians and the officers sent to help them.

MDPD has been designated by the Regional Domestic Security Task Force as the Tier One (primary) response agency to terrorist and Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents in a quad county area including Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe. As a Tier One response organization, MDPD is responsible for providing immediate assistance to these counties and their municipalities when requested. As a result, MDPD must be at a constant state of readiness, highly trained, and equipped with the most current and appropriate response technology and equipment. This project proposes to secure a response model of equipment, incorporating current technology to enhance our ability to respond to high risk tactical situations in a rapid, safe, and efficient manner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alina T. Hudak".

Alina T. Hudak
Assistant County Manager

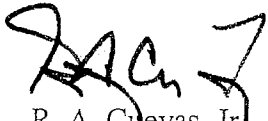


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 2, 2007

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 18(A)(2)

Please note any items checked.

_____ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised

_____ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing

_____ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing

_____ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget

_____ Budget required

_____ Statement of fiscal impact required

_____ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation

_____ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing

_____ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)

_____ No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 18(A)(2)

Veto _____

10-02-07

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE COUNTY MAYOR'S ACTION IN APPLYING FOR, RECEIVING AND EXPENDING FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY2007 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDS AND EXECUTE SUCH CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS AS REQUIRED IF AWARDED

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, at the County Commission meeting of July 26, 2007 this Board authorized the County Mayor to administer County business during the period of July 24, 2007 through August 24, 2007 [Agenda Item No. 12A3]; such action(s) taken to be in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of County Commissioners and be submitted to the Board for approval at the County Commission meeting of October 2, 2007,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board ratifies the County Mayor's action in applying for, receiving, and expending \$200,000 from the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, in substantially the grant application attached hereto and made a part hereof; and authorizes the County Mayor or his designee to receive and expend grant funds, execute such contracts and agreements as required by grant guidelines or to further the purposes described in the funding request; following approval by the County Attorney's Office; to expend any and all monies received for the purposes described in the funding request; to apply for, receive and expend future additional funds should they become available through this grant program; to file and execute any necessary amendments to the application for and on behalf of Miami-Dade County, Florida; and to exercise amendments,

modifications, renewals, cancellation and termination clauses of any contracts and agreements on behalf of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman	
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Dennis C. Moss
Dorrian D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of October, 2007. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

1131

Kenneth B. Drucker

Program Narrative (Attachment 1)

Program Abstract

Applicant's Name: Miami-Dade County

Title of Project: Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program Miami-Dade Police Department Enhancing Local Law Enforcement

Dollar Amount Requested: \$200,000

Category III: Enhancing Local Law Enforcement

Project Goals: To enhance officer safety in the Miami-Dade Police Department's (MDPD) response to tactical situations, explosives calls, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) , and potential terrorist incidents.

Numerous recent incidents have highlighted the vulnerability of our schools, court houses and malls and the need for law enforcement to respond to these incidents in a rapid and efficient manner in order to minimize the loss of life to both civilians and the officers sent to help them. This project proposes to secure a response model of equipment which incorporates current technology advances to enhance our ability to respond to high risk tactical situations in a rapid, safe, and efficient manner.

Program Narrative

1. Statement of the Problem Current equipment for the Department Special Response Team (SRT) does not have the full capacity to ensure the safety of the officer when responding to tactical crisis situations.

The variability of human nature makes police work anything but routine. It is particularly frustrating when sworn officers encounter a situation with a violent combatant who is angry, out of control, mentally ill or under the influence of drugs. The Department's ultimate goal is to quell dangerous situations without loss of life or property; however, in these instances officers are sometimes forced to make split second decisions with life or death ramifications. Numerous recent incidents have highlighted the vulnerability of our schools, court houses and malls and the need for law enforcement to respond to these incidents in a rapid and efficient manner in order to minimize the loss of life to both civilians and the officers sent to help them.

2. Program Design and Implementation

Miami-Dade County, anchored by its seaport and airport, remains the North American gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean. The County is comprised of over 2 million residents, and has an area of 2,200 square miles; larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware. Miami-Dade County is one of the most diverse major cities in the nation. Various institutions and events have been targets of terrorism in the past and are still considered potential targets. Miami-Dade County has several unique local targets that are concerns based on assessed vulnerability and their high profile status, such as:

- a) **Government Facilities-** Miami-Dade County is home to several U.S. operations, including: Secret Service, U.S. Attorneys Office, Regional Office of the Federal Bureau

of Investigation, Federal and County Courthouses, along with Municipal, County, and State office buildings.

- b) Transportation Centers- The Port of Miami, The Miami International Airport
- c) Schools and Educational Facilities- The County has 340 public schools serving over 370,000 students.
- d) Banks and Financial Institutions- Miami-Dade County is home to over 100 commercial banks.
- e) Electric Power Plants & Water Treatment Plants- The Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department is the sixth largest public utility in the United States. Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant is the largest electric utility in Florida.

The Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) is the largest law enforcement agency in the Southeastern United States serving an ethnically and racially diverse community. The Department provides both traditional and municipal police and sheriff services to Miami-Dade County and contractual municipal areas. The personnel compliment consists of approximately 3,000 sworn officers and 1,500 civilian budgeted positions. The Department has achieved accreditation both nationally (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.) and state (Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc.). MDPD has also been designated by the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) as the Tier One (primary resource) response agency to terrorist and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents in Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County, and Monroe County. As a Tier One response organization, we are responsible for providing immediate assistance to these counties, and their municipalities when requested, therefore, MDPD must be at a constant state of readiness, highly trained, and equipped with state of the art technology.

Given the responsibility of being a Tier One response agency, the MDPD must ensure that response to dangerous situations by law enforcement personnel are effective while maintaining optimum safeguards for the responding officer. Although MDPD preparedness is in a state of readiness, it requires additional funding to implement a response equipment model which will move MDPD into the future and bridge the technology gap. As a Tier One response agency, and to maintain a high level of officer safety, MDPD must make investments in providing state of the art equipment and technology through this response equipment model. This model includes:

- a) Mobil Remote Sensing System
- b) Mobil Adjustable Ramp System (MARS) Extensions
- c) Remote F6A Bomb Robot Wireless and Equipment Upgrade
- d) MSA Powered Air Purifying System (PAPRS)
- e) Ballistic Body Bunker Shields

The proposed solution was determined after a series of evaluations were conducted by an MDPD team of trained Special Response Team (SRT) professionals using a variety of test situations. The tests were conducted in simulated and actual situations. Evaluations were conducted using several criteria, including measuring capability to address a unique situation (flexibility), range in motion, ability to respond with speed, and the safety for personnel.

In order for MDPD to maintain itself as the Tier One response agency, and maintain a high level of officer safety, it must make investments in providing state of the art equipment and technology. These investments include the use of **Mobil Remote Sensing System**. This system allows tactical officers to determine if a structure is occupied if there is a need to enter. The system employs sensors that are strategically placed on the exterior wall of a structure. If the system determines that the structure is occupied, the tactical team would identify the best tactical

approach, as opposed to entering blind, thus greatly enhancing officer safety. An additional benefit is if the system determines that the structure is unoccupied, the cost of property damage would be reduced. The purchase of two systems would enable two tactical teams to operate at two locations simultaneously, a frequent requirement.

The **Mobile Adjustable Ramp System (MARS) Extensions** would provide an extension to each of the three MARS currently in use by MDPD. The MARS is a vehicle mounted system that includes a platform that is attached to the front and rear of a sport utility vehicle (SUV). The main surface of the platform is located above the vehicle. One or more rotating ramps are connected to the platform. Each of the ramps includes an extending portion located under the top surface of the platform. A separate hydraulic system is configured to incline the ramps. A second hydraulic system is configured to extend the extending portion of the ramps. In its current configuration, the ramps have the capability to extend 30ft. With the addition of the extensions, an additional 10ft. will be added for an overall reach of 40ft. The ramp extensions are necessary for operations on larger aircraft that have their entry/exit doors and wings much higher off the ground due to their large size. The ramp extensions would promote greater officer safety for the entry teams by expediting safer rescue operations by eliminating additional ladders and covering the distance-to-target faster and safer than conventional methods.

Remote F6A Bomb Robot Wireless/Equipment Upgrade is a vital tool during Explosive Ordinance Device (EOD) operations. The unit effectiveness is limited as it is not using wireless technology. Currently, the robot is remotely controlled via a 400 ft. tether. With the addition of a wireless capability, the robot would have a 2000ft. range and have more freedom of movement. Currently, the officer operating the robot is out in the open, exposing himself to the threat. For an EOD, the minimum safe distance from the device is 1350ft. It also eliminates the

potential for the tether to become hung-up and break during deployment. When upgraded, the robot will receive wireless capabilities, and also greater lift capabilities. Currently, the robot has a 7 pound lift capacity. With the upgrade, the lift capacity will be increased to 20 pounds allowing the robot to carry more equipment to and from the threat. This upgrade is a cost effective alternative to leasing or purchasing a new robot.

MSA Powered Air Purifying System (PAPRS) are used with a gas mask in place of air tanks for operations in hazmat, chemical, and biological agent environments. The system purifies the air that is used by the officer, offering protection from the harmful effects of toxic agents. Currently air tanks are used in conjunction with gas masks. This method limits the useful time the officer can be exposed to a dangerous environment to 20 minutes, and requires officers to be rotated into service in intervals. With the addition of PAPRS, the amount of time the officer can be exposed is limited only to his level of fatigue, allowing more officers to operate simultaneously. Their use greatly increases officer safety and effectiveness.

Ballistic "Body Bunker" Shields (3) are the industry standard in addressing active shooter incidents in courthouses nationwide. They enable officers to navigate the often narrow courthouse hallways toward a potential threat in the safest manner possible. Multiple officers can line-up behind a single "Body Bunker" shield and move toward an armed subject safely. The level of protection provided by the shields protects officers from handguns to high powered rifles. The purchase of three shields will provide for each of the main court houses in Miami-Dade County.

With the purchase of these items, it is our goal to enhance officer safety in the Miami-Dade Police Department's response to tactical situations, explosive threats, weapons of mass destruction, and potential terrorist threats. Our objectives are:

1. To complete training with use of the new equipment and systems on all identified personnel
2. To conduct response which minimizes risk to officer/no loss of life with the use of the proposed program design
3. To evaluate effectiveness of response model equipment of the program design upon implementation.

Timeline

Program Task/Deliverables	Time Period	Assigned Personnel
Grant Award to receive and establish in County system	1 week	MDPD Grant Personnel/Fiscal and Planning Bureau
Purchase Response Equipment Model	6 months	MDPD and County Procurement Staff
Train on Response Equipment Model	60 Days	MDPD Special Response Teams and Training Bureau Personnel
Evaluate Effectiveness	30 Days	MDPD Special Response Team, Training Bureau Personnel, Personnel from Specialty Bureaus including Homeland Security, Robbery, Narcotics, Canine Units, etc. Also, members of the SERDSTF will be included.

3. Capabilities/Competencies

The Miami-Dade Police Department's Special Response Team is one of 21 full time SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams in the United States and One of on two full time teams in the entire state of Florida. The designation of "full time" means that the unit's personnel are completely devoted (100% of their assigned shift) to preparing for and performing high risk tactical operations as needed by the Department. Personnel in part time teams have primary responsibilities in the areas of patrol and investigation and are called out from their regular duties

when a crisis requiring their response occurs, limiting their state of preparedness and ability to respond quickly and safely and limits their level of training. MDPD has 35 trained fulltime SRT sworn law enforcement officers and command staff which comprise three (3) teams. MDPD SRT officers are required to pass a 120 hour SRT certification course in order to be eligible for consideration into the Unit. In addition, the Department has seven (7) Explosive Ordinance Device (EOD) technicians who are also sworn law enforcement officers. Teams report for duty daily prepared to respond to critical incidents. Team personnel train and maintain unit equipment together during the course of their daily tour of duty. Training in various areas of SRT tactics is conducted daily. These areas include fire arms proficiency, physical fitness, building, aircraft, and vehicle searches, rappelling from structures and helicopters, hazmat and chemical agent response, waterborne operations (vessel boarding and searches), specialty training for snipers and explosives breaching, and other areas requiring SRT response. Unit personnel are uniquely capable of implementing the use of the requested equipment to meet the goals and objectives of the program. SRT supervisors are skilled in managing unit personnel and resources and are highly qualified to implement and oversee this program. Personnel participate in specialized training conducted annually by federal agencies (such as Federal Bureau of Investigation) to ensure Department SRT personnel meet or exceed national standards and requirements.

5. Impact Outcomes, Evaluation and Sustainability

The impact of this program would be instantaneous and profound. The Department would immediately and significantly enhance its ability to safely respond to a variety of critical and life threatening incidents in a more effective and expedient manner. These types of events have been

played out across our country and worldwide in recent years and have highlighted an area in which modern law enforcement has been mostly ineffective and highly maligned. The 1995 Tokyo Sarin gas attack is an example of the need for the PAPRS. The 2005 Fulton County Courthouse shootings demonstrate the need for the "Body Bunker" shields. Numerous hijackings, hostage situations, and bomb threats and scares, substantiate the purchase of the MARS Extensions, the Mobil Remote Sensing Systems, and the Bomb Robot Wireless/Equipment Upgrade respectively. If one such incident occurs in this community and it is addressed safely and successfully with the use of the requested equipment, the program will have demonstrated its effectiveness. The data by which it is evaluated must and will be compared to law enforcement responses to similar events world wide, for that is the data by which the need for this initiative has been assessed. The evaluation team will include a tri-level evaluation team of personnel: 1) MDPD SRT personnel; 2) MDPD personnel from specialty bureaus such as Training, Homeland Security, Robbery, Narcotics, Canine 3) SERDSTF which includes first responders (law enforcement, emergency and fire) from local, state, federal and tribal agencies from a four county area (Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach).

Once the grant funded program has been completed, it will be sustained with local dollars by scheduling equipment replacement and upgrading on alternating budget years so each purchase or upgrade can be absorbed by the Department.